

Urgent

DCI/IC 77-1927
14 September 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Office of Policy and Planning
Director, Office of Performance Evaluation and Improvement
Chairman, SIGINT Committee
Chairman, COMIREX
Chairman, HUMINT Committee
Special Assistant to the D/DCI/IC, MGen Thomas, USAF, Ret.

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FROM :
Chairman, Security Committee

SUBJECT : Proposed Executive Order on Security Classification

1. Attached is the final draft of a proposed Executive Order on "National Security Information and Material." This is the product of the PRM-29 effort, and is intended to replace E.O. 11652 as the Executive Branch's policy on security classification.

2. This office is coordinating IC Staff comments on the proposed Order, for inclusion in the consolidated comments which will be prepared for signature by the DCI. Your comments, with particular regard to substantive aspects of the proposed Order, are requested by 30 September 1977. Informal comments, or questions, may be directed to of my staff.

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3. Significant features of this proposal in comparison with E.O. 11652 are:

a. Definitions of "intelligence source" and "intelligence method" are provided.

b. There is a two-stage test for classification (first establish classifiability by determining that information fits a prescribed subject or functional category; then determine that at least significant damage would result from disclosure).

c. Explicit protection is provided for in the case of foreign originated classified information.

d. The General Declassification Schedule is eliminated, with "routine" classifications limited to a maximum of six years.

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e. The four exemption categories are eliminated, with extended classifications (beyond six years) permitted for clearly articulated reasons.

f. Paragraph marking is mandatory; exceptions for good cause may be sought.

g. Classified information must be declassified or reviewed 20 years after date of origin (vice the present 30); foreign originated classified information after 30 years.

h. Secrecy agreements for access are optional.

i. Special access programs (compartments) are permitted only subject to personal written approval of DCI (for intelligence) or department head, and then subject to specified criteria and "sunset law" review at three-year intervals.

j. A Security Information Oversight Office with more powers than the present Interagency Classification Review Committee will be set up in GSA.

Attachment:
Draft E.O. 11652



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Orig. - SECOM Subj. File w/o att.

1 - SECOM Chrono w/o att.

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